

Site Activities Update

Devil's Swamp Lake Site
Alsen, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

December 2010

This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- Current activities
- What's next?
- Technical Assistance Grant
- Site history
- Where to get more information

Current activities

Community Meeting
Thursday, December 9, 2010
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Alsen Recreation Center
601 Old Rafe Meyer Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70807

Representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals will be available to discuss the Superfund Program, ongoing Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, and answer your questions.

In April 2010, representatives of Clean Harbors, their consultant, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (CRA), EPA, LDEQ, and other Federal and State regulators participated in a site visit that included a walking tour of the drainage ditch and the levee on the east side of Devil's Swamp Lake.

In July 2010, a draft work plan to conduct the study was submitted to the State and Federal regulators. This document was reviewed, comments were provided; the document was further revised and finalized.

The November 2010 plan proposes to conduct the investigation in a tiered approach consisting of two phases or steps. The first phase is covered in the "Tier 1 Remedial Investigation (RI) Work Plan (WP)". This phase will include initial characterization of the extent of PCBs at the site; determination if a human health risk assessment is required; comparison of contaminants to screening criteria; and completion of a screening ecological risk assessment. Further evaluation will be conducted during Tier 2 RI if necessary.

What's next?

Field activities are likely to take place early in 2011.

The site has been divided in four areas of investigation, and sediment and water samples will be collected to identify if contaminants of concern are present.

The LDEQ and the EPA, through their oversight contractors, will monitor field activities and will analyze samples from the same locations the respondents will be collecting samples.

Clean Harbors, EPA, LDEQ and other regulators will evaluate the results of this Tier 1 RI investigation to identify further work to be conducted during the second phase.

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

In July 2010, EPA awarded a TAG to Alsen/St. Irma Lee Community Enterprise, Inc.

The Alsen/St. Irma Lee Community Enterprise, Inc. will use the grant funds to hire a technical advisor to interpret site test results and other technical reports in order to increase community understanding of the technical and scientific information available on the Devil's Swamp Lake Site. The TAG group is currently in the process of obtaining the services of this Technical Advisor.

The technical advisor can:

- Meet with the community-at-large to explain technical information;
- Provide assistance in communicating community concerns about the site to EPA;
- Distribute interpretations of technical/scientific information to the community;
- Visit the site and community to gain a better understanding of EPA's activities and the Superfund process; and
- Attend site related meetings and/or hearings.

Site history

Devil's Swamp is in a large flood plain area which consists of Devil's Swamp Lake and areas of Devil's Swamp immediately adjoining the lake. This swamp is near Alsen, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, about ten miles north of the City of Baton Rouge. Devil's Swamp Lake Site is characterized as a man-made lake, resulting from the construction of Baton Rouge Harbor in 1973.

The Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Inc. (Clean Harbors), formerly Rollins Environmental Services of Louisiana, Inc., is located northeast of the Baton Rouge Harbor and west of Scenic Highway. Rollins began operating a hazardous chemical disposal facility in 1971. This facility is adjacent to Devil's Swamp.

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) confirmed the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in sediments from Devil's Swamp Lake and along the wastewater ditch from the former Rollins facility. In October 1987, the Louisiana Department of Health and

Hospitals and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries issued a fish consumption advisory for Devil's Swamp Lake. The current advisory recommends that fish not be consumed more than two meals per month, taken in the areas of Devil's Swamp, Devil's Swamp Lake, and Bayou Baton Rouge.

The EPA, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, proposed to place the Devil's Swamp Lake Site on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is EPA's list of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for long term cleanup under the Federal Superfund Program.

In November 2009, LDHH completed a Health Consultation on the Alsen Community water Supply. The Alsen water comes primarily from the Scenic Highway and Jetson wells using the Layton well as a back-up source. Contamination concentrations detected in the three wells were below comparison values and it was determined the water posed no concerns for peoples' health and that no public health actions are needed at this time.

On December 3, 2009, the EPA signed a Unilateral Administrative Order (Order) to compel potentially responsible parties to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study to evaluate the extent of contamination and environmental risks. Clean Harbors, on behalf of Baton Rouge Disposal, LLC (Respondent to this Order) is currently planning to conduct this study.

Where to get more information

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Thomas Stafford

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All inquiries from the media should be directed to the Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.

Devil's Swamp Lake Superfund site
www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/pdffiles/0600652.pdf

Site Repository

Scotlandville Branch Library
7373 Scenic Hwy
Baton Rouge, LA 70807



Region 6
1445 Ross Ave. (6SF-VO)
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